



18/705652 11/15/94

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Examiner: Unknown
A. S. McElroy et al.) Group Art Unit: Unknown
Serial No.)
Filed: (Concurrently)) Docket No. 10242
For: AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR) Los Angeles, CA 90012
IMMOBILIZING A)
VEHICLE AND METHOD) Date: August 22, 1996

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 et. seq.

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In order to comply with the Applicant's duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicant wishes to bring to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office all prior art references that the Applicant is aware of. The references are listed on the enclosed Information Disclosure Citation Form (PTO 1449). Copies of the listed references are enclosed to facilitate the examination of the above-identified Application.

U.S. PATENTS

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Patentee</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>
3,631,694	J.O. Teroux	01/04/72
4,076,095	R. Adamski	02/28/78
4,881,615	R. Conway	11/21/89
5,040,387	A.P. Knott Jr.	08/20/91
5,276,728	Pagliaroli et al.	01/04/94
5,287,006	Carlo et al.	02/15/94
5,307,048	D.G. Sonders	04/26/94
5,323,140	W.E. Boyles	06/21/94
5,335,748	R.H. Wilson	08/09/94
5,359,868	F.L. Villani	11/01/94
5,361,213	M. Fujieda et al.	11/01/94
5,370,201	H. Inubushi	12/06/94
5,382,948	H. Richmond	01/17/95
5,394,135	D.M. Stadler	02/28/95
5,396,216	L. Morgan	03/07/95

FOREIGN PATENTS

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Patentee</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Pub. Date</u>
2,266,611	E. Gill	U.K.	11/03/93
2,270,547	Salter et al.	U.K.	03/16/94

With regard to the prior art references cited, the following descriptive comments are proffered by Applicant's attorney in an effort to assist in the examination of the instant application.

1. U.S. Patent No. 3,631,694 entitled Security Device For Locking Gasoline Accelerator Pedal of Automobile issued to Teroux on January 4, 1972 discloses a mechanical ratchet device to prevent movement of the gas pedal of an automobile. (See Figs. 2 & 3).
2. U.S. Patent No. 4,076,095 entitled Pedal Locking Device issued to Adamski on February 28, 1978 discloses a mechanical device for locking in position the pedals of a motor vehicle (see Fig. 1).
3. U.S. Patent No. 4,881,615 entitled Anti-Theft Device For Motor Vehicles issued to Conway on November 21, 1989 discloses a hydraulically-operated braking system which enables, but prevents disabling. of the brakes. See Figs. 1-4.
4. U.S. Patent No. 5,040,387 entitled Vehicle Brake Lock Assembly issued to Knott Jr. on August 20, 1991 discloses a locally or remotely controlled brake lock apparatus which incorporates a mechanical dead bolt to lock the brake pedal in the engaged position. See Figs. 1 & 4.
5. U.S. Patent No. 5,276,728 entitled Remotely Activated Automobile Disabling System issued to Pagliaroli et al. on January 4, 1994 discloses a disabling system having a receiver responsive to a matching signal frequency which disables the automobile starter and ignition system. See Figs. 1 & 2.
6. U.S. Patent No. 5,287,006 entitled Self-Contained Anti-Theft Device For Motor Vehicles issued to Carlo et al. on February 15, 1994 discloses an anti-theft device adapted to be connected adjacent to or on a motor vehicle battery including a power switch for disconnecting the battery when starting current is sensed. See Figs. 2 and 3.

7. U.S. Patent No. 5,307,048 entitled Vehicle Security System Including An Anti-Carjacking System issued to Sonders on April 26, 1994 discloses a system that disables an unattended vehicle by the manual operation of a remote control transmitter or disables the engine of a carjacked vehicle by the automatic sequence that disables the engine. See Figs. 1 and 3.

8. U.S. Patent No. 5,323,140 entitled Antitheft System For Use With A Vehicle issued to Boyles on June 21, 1994 discloses an antitheft system employed with the vehicle constant voltage battery source comprising an electrically-controlled operation feature which must be activated for operating the vehicle. See Fig. 6.

9. U.S. Patent No. 5,335,748 entitled Anti-Theft Apparatus issued to Wilson on August 9, 1994 discloses a vehicular anti-theft device which utilizes the unbuckling of a vehicle seat belt to provide a surreptitious signal that activates a timing circuit which disables the engine after a preset period of time. See Fig. 3.

10. U.S. Patent No. 5,359,868 entitled Automobile Anti-Theft Gas Pedal Lock issued to Villani on November 1, 1994 discloses a mechanical locking device which either inhibits the operation of the floor-mounted gear shift lever and/or the fuel feed line. See Figs. 1, 4, 7 and 17.

11. U.S. Patent No. 5,361,213 entitled Control Device For An Automobile issued to M. Fujieda et al. on November 1, 1994 discloses a device having at least one sensor (for detecting the operational state of the automobile) which provides an output signal to electronic circuitry including a hierarchical group of neural elements of a neural computer which provides an output signal to a control circuit adapted to control an automobile actuator. See Figs. 1 and 23.

12. U.S. Patent No. 5,370,201 entitled Anti-Theft Devices For Motor Vehicles issued to Inubushi on December 6, 1994 discloses a combination of an electromagnetic wave receiver and portable electromagnetic wave transmitter (e.g., cellular telephones) with a disabling unit which when energized by the transmitter open circuits the electrical motor control system. See Figs. 1-3.

13. U.S. Patent No. 5,382,948 entitled Vehicular Security System With Remote Signalling For Auto Carjacking Functions issued to Richmond on January 17, 1995 discloses a security system having an electronic supervisory control unit which communicates with a remote signalling unit to provide conventional alarm system functions for securing an unoccupied vehicle and carjacking functions which can be remotely or passively initiated to disable the vehicle engine. See Fig. 1.

14. U.S. Patent No. 5,394,135 entitled Automatically Armed Vehicle Anti-Theft System issued to Stadler on February 28, 1995 discloses an automatically armed vehicle anti-theft system which when energized, initiates a predetermined time cycle which permits the vehicle engine to only operate properly near the engine idle speed. See Figs. 1-3.

15. U.S. Patent No. 5,396,216 entitled Vehicle Theft Deterrent System Including Hood Locking Means issued to Morgan on March 7, 1995 discloses a theft deterrent system having a first operational mode which disables the engine, sounds an alarm and locks the hood upon use or by-pass of the ignition switch and a second operational mode which enables use of or bypass of the ignition switch for a predetermined time period prior to disabling the engine. See Figs. 1 and 6.

16. U.K. Patent Application No. 2,266,611 entitled Vehicle Anti-Theft Systems filed by E. Gill on September 18, 1992 discloses a vehicle anti-theft system having a control means and a remote control means adapted for two-way communication and a plurality of anti-theft devices which when activated call attention to the intruder and prevent disengagement of the vehicle brakes. See Figs. 1-3.

17. U.K. Patent No. 2,270,547 entitled Vehicle Anti-Theft Device filed by D. Salter et al. on September 14, 1992 discloses a vehicle anti-theft device which by operation of a valve enables all of the road wheel brakes to remain engaged when the vehicle is parked and the engine can be immobilized. No drawing Figs. available.

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In the opinion of the Applicant, the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO 1449 do not individually, or in combination, describe the method and apparatus of the presently claimed invention for an Automated System For Immobilizing A Vehicle And Method. However, the Applicant does not wish to deter the Examiner from a thorough review and evaluation of the relevant art.

Based upon the above list of prior art references, the Applicant submits that the claims of the Automated System For Immobilizing A Vehicle of the present invention define patentable subject matter and respectfully requests the Examiner's favorable consideration and early allowance thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 27, 1996

By John S. Christopher
John S. Christopher, Reg. No. 30,937
August 27, 1996
Date of Signature